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DOVER REAL ESTATE AGENT ENTERS PLEA TO FAILURE TO FILE TAX RETURN

Wilmington, DE - Dover-based real estate agent Thomas M. Harmon, Jr., 52, pleaded guilty on August 29, 2006 to a single misdemeanor count of willfully failing to file a State of Delaware personal income tax return for the year 2003, says Patrick T. Carter, Director of the Delaware Division of Revenue.

By pleading guilty, Harmon admitted that he failed to file a Delaware personal income tax return and admitted to intentionally concealing from the Delaware Division of Revenue more than $100,000.00 in gross income for tax year 2003 while operating as a licensed real estate agent, as well as conducting other income-producing activities. The majority of Harmon's income was acquired in commissions and not subject to withholding.

Harmon was originally charged in a two-count indictment in March 2006 for willfully failing to file state income tax returns whereby he failed to report more than $245,000.00 in gross income for tax years 2002 and 2003.

Kent County Superior Court Judge James T. Vaughn sentenced Harmon to one year in prison, suspended for two years probation and 50 hours community service on the condition that Harmon agrees to pay full restitution to the Division of Revenue in the amount of $27,800.00. Harmon also was ordered to pay a $2,300.00 court-ordered fine and remain current on all tax obligations.

Charges against Harmon stem from a six-month investigation conducted by the Delaware Division of Revenue's Criminal Investigation Unit - a branch of the Division dedicated solely to apprehending tax offenders in Delaware. The investigation included scrutinizing tax records, as well as interviewing third parties and financial institutions. Findings were then referred to the Delaware Attorney General's Office for indictment and prosecution.

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